

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 7, without prejudice, and amend claims 8 and 13 as follows:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) The flying head slider according to ~~claim 7~~claim 13, wherein a step is defined on a top surface of the front rail at least along the front contour of the front air bearing surface.

9. (Previously presented) A flying head slider comprising:  
a slider body;  
a generally flat bottom surface defined on the slider body, an upstream end of the bottom surface being defined along a first datum line extending in a lateral direction of the slider body;  
a front rail standing on the bottom surface near an upstream end of the slider body;  
front air bearing surfaces defined on the front rail, upstream contours of the front air bearing surfaces being defined along parallel second datum lines, respectively, intersecting the first datum line at a predetermined inclined angle, said upstream contours of

the front air bearing surfaces being set asymmetric relative to a longitudinal centerline of the slider body;

a rear rail standing on the bottom surface near a downstream end of the slider body; and

a rear air bearing surface defined on the rear rail.

10. (Previously presented) The flying head slider according to claim 9, wherein steps are defined on a top surface of the front rail at least along the upstream contours of the front air bearing surfaces.

11. (Previously presented) A flying head slider comprising:  
a slider body;  
a generally flat bottom surface defined on the slider body, an upstream end of the bottom surface being defined along a first datum line extending in a lateral direction of the slider body;

a front rail standing on the bottom surface near an upstream end of the slider body;

first and second front air bearing surfaces defined on the front rail, an upstream contour of the first front air bearing surface being defined along a second datum line intersecting the first datum line at an inclined angle, an upstream contour of the second front

air bearing surface being defined along a third datum line intersecting the first datum line at an inclined angle, said upstream contours of the first and second front air bearing surfaces being set asymmetric relative to a longitudinal centerline of the slider body;

a rear rail standing on the bottom surface near a downstream end of the slider body; and

a rear air bearing surface defined on the rear rail.

12. (Previously presented) The flying head slider according to claim 11, wherein steps are defined on a top surface of the front rail at least along the upstream contours of the first and second front air bearing surface, respectively.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The~~A flying head slider ~~according to claim 7,~~  
~~wherein comprising:~~

a slider body;

a generally flat bottom surface defined on the slider body, an upstream end of the bottom surface being defined along a first datum line extending in a lateral direction of the slider body;

a front rail standing on the bottom surface near an upstream end of the slider body;

at least a front air bearing surface defined on the front rail, the front air bearing surface having a front contour extending along parallel second datum lines intersecting the first datum line at a predetermined inclined angle, said front contour of the front air bearing surface is~~being~~ set asymmetric relative to a longitudinal centerline of the slider body;

a rear rail standing on the bottom surface near a downstream end of the slider body; and

a rear air bearing surface defined on the rear rail.